

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 HUD-02 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 061139Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2983

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS PARIS 23537

DEPT. PASS HUD FOR BARNES

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, FR, TGEN

SUBJECT: UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING -  
34TH SESSION. FRENCH DELEGATION PROPOSAL FOR URBAN DOCUMENTATION  
CENTER.

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO ADVANCE COPY RECEIVED HERE,  
FRENCH DELEGATION AT NEXT MEETING OF THE UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING,  
BUILDING AND PLANNING WILL REQUEST RECOGNITION OF IDCHEC,  
A FRENCH CREATED URBAN DOCUMENTATION CENTER, AS AN OFFICIAL AGENCY  
OF UNECE. A US POSITION IS SUGGESTED, ENCOURAGING FIRST A BETTER  
INFORMATION SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL SCALE ON THE PART OF MEMBER  
COUNTRIES, AND PROPOSING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE'S AD HOC  
GROUP WHICH WOULD LOOK INTO THE OVERALL ISSUE OF EXCHANGE OF  
INFORMATION WITHIN ECE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMITTEE.  
END OF SUMMARY.

2. AMEMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ADVANCE COPY OF REPORT FROM FRENCH  
DELEGATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING  
OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, RELATING TO ITEM 11 OF  
THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION. THE SESSION  
WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 10 TO 14. THIS REPORT IS A  
RENEWED EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE FRENCH TO ESTABLISH THE INTER-  
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GOVERNMENTAL DOCUMENTATION CENTER ON HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(IDCHEC), ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN A LIMITED FORM BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AS IN OFFICIALLY AFFILIATED AGENCY OF UNECE.

3. PAST EFFORTS ON THE PART OF IDCHEC TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION AS AN OFFICIAL AGENCY OF ECE WERE NOT ENCOURAGED, PARTICULARLY ON THE GROUNDS OF ADDITIONAL EXPENSES PROPOSED TO BE BORN BY MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND OF UNPROVEN ABILITY OF IDCHEC TO CARRY-OUT THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAM SET OUT IN ITS PROPOSAL. THE NEED REMAINS FOR AN ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF COLLECTING AND MAKING AVAILABLE URBAN, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ON A COMPARATIVE BASIS, TO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

4. WHILE THE FIRST OBJECTION REMAINS, IDCHEC, OPERATING ON A LIMITED BASIS, WITH FUNDS COMING ONLY FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT A FAIRLY EFFECTIVE FUNCTION OF GATHERING AND PROVIDING INFORMATION ON DEMAND IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS WITHIN ITS COMPETENCY. OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM THE STATES, AND SPECIALLY HUD, WERE TRANSMITTED TO IDCHEC WHICH RESPONDED QUICKLY AND ACCURATELY. IN RETURN, EMBASSY HAS FURNISHED IDCHEC WITH DATA AND DOCUMENTS ENABLING IT TO REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IT RECEIVED REGARDING THE U.S. FRENCH AGENCIES THEMSELVES HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE REGULAR USE OF IDCHEC SERVICES.

5. SHOULD THE FRENCH DELEGATION PRESS FOR APPROVAL OF THEIR POSITION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS IN DEVELOPING ITS POSITION.

A. RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC DATA TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND RESOLVE URBAN PROBLEMS.

B. RECOGNIZE THE USEFULNESS OF A REFERENCE SERVICE FOR ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES.

C. POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT PERFORMANCE DEPENDS ALMOST ENTIRELY ON ABILITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO PERFORM THE SERVICE ON THEIR NATIONAL SCALE.

D. POINT OUT FURTHER THAT THIS SERVICE IS GENERALLY FAR FROM ADEQUATE AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S.

E. ENCOURAGE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE SUCH SERVICES.

F. REMIND MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE LIMITED RESOURCES OF THE COMMITTEE AND RELUCTANCE OF GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

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IN THE LIGHT OF MORE PRESSING PRIORITIES.

G. SUGGEST THAT THE COMMITTEE SET UP AN AD-HOC GROUP TO INVESTIGATE THE WHOLE ISSUE OF URBAN INFORMATION FOR ECE AND THE STATUS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD.

H. EXPLORE WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND IDCHEC WAYS TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION SERVICE AND POTENTIAL SOURCES FOR FUNDING, AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE.

I. SUGGEST FURTHER THAT, AS A STARTING POINT, EACH DELEGATION

SUBMIT THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF AN AGENCY DESIGNATED BY ITS  
GOVERNMENT AS A FOCAL POINT TO COLLECT AND PROVIDE URBAN  
DATA TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ON REQUEST.IRWIN

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